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**WASHINGTON, DC**—Congressman Peter DeFazio (D-Springfield) presented a posthumous Bronze Star medal today to the widow of a U.S. Army veteran. The Bronze Star medal is awarded for heroic and meritorious service in the European or Pacific theaters during World War II.

President Roosevelt authorized the Bronze Star medal by Executive Order in 1944 to recognize that U.S. Army ground troops endured great hardships and suffered some of the heaviest losses of the war.

In the last year, Congressman DeFazio has helped 26 qualified World War II veterans in his congressional district receive their Bronze Star medals. Many veterans do not know they are eligible for the award. Additionally, Congressman DeFazio continues to assist veterans of other wars receive awards they earned while in uniform.

World War II U.S. Army veterans who earned a Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Medic badge are eligible for this special recognition. Veterans and their family members are encouraged to contact Congressman DeFazio's office to learn more about eligibility information and assistance with military medals.

The following veterans were honored at the ceremony:

Posthumous Award: Jane Williams for Private First Class Marion Williams of Albany

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